



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

September 22, 2000

Department of the Interior Acquisition Policy Release (DIAPR) 2000-6

Subject: **Subcontracts for Commercial Services**

1. **Purpose.** This DIAPR grants contracting officers permission to deviate from the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) regarding application of the Service Contract Act to subcontracts for commercial services.

2. **Effective Date.** Upon signature.

3. **Expiration Date.** July 26, 2001, or upon issuance of a pertinent FAR change.

4. **Background and Explanation.**

When the Clinger-Cohen Act was first implemented in the FAR, all subcontracts that were awarded under prime contracts for commercial items were exempted from application of the Service Contract Act. This policy was reflected in FAR 12.504(a)(10). The FAR Council later determined that this blanket waiver did not reflect the Administration's policy regarding the Service Contract Act, so FAR 12.504(a)(10) was withdrawn in FAC 97-19 (issued on July 26, 2000; effective August 25, 2000; 65 FR 46068).

Simultaneously, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a temporary rule that reinstated the exemption, but with some refinements. This DIAPR allows contracting officers to use the Department of Labor rule rather than the FAR.

Enclosed is substitute FAR coverage. Two broad areas are now exempt.

1. Maintenance, calibration, repair and /or installation of information technology are discussed in 22.1003-4(c)(1) and (2) of the enclosure. Paragraph (c)(1) defines the exemption, and (c)(2) provides the conditions under which the exemption may be used.

2. The enclosed 22.1003-4(d)(1) lists nine categories of services that are exempt, including automated data processing, telecommunications, automobile repair, financial services, lodging, building and equipment maintenance, transportation, real estate services, and relocation. Paragraph (d)(2) provides the conditions under which these exemptions may be used. Note that these conditions are not identical to (c)(2).

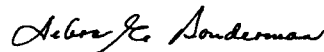
In addition, the revised version of the clause at 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders–Commercial Items, (enclosed) must also be used in order to take advantage of the exemptions.

This DIAPR will be posted on the PAM Home Page, so that contracting officers may refer offerors and contractors to the details of the exemption rather than reprinting the enclosure in solicitations.

**5. Action Required.**

When contracting for commercial items, use this deviation authority whenever it is reasonably known that subcontracts for commercial services will be involved. Contracting Officers are permitted to insert the clause retroactively in contracts awarded under solicitations that were issued after August 25, 2000, so long as appropriate consideration is received and the competitive process is not compromised.

Please contact Ms. Dee Emmerich of this office on (202) 208-3348 if you have any questions regarding this policy issuance.



Debra E. Sonderman, Director  
Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Enclosure

## CLASS DEVIATION

### PART 12-ACQUISITIONS OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS

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12.504 Applicability of certain laws to subcontracts for the acquisition of commercial items.

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(c) The applicability of the following laws has been modified in regards to subcontracts at any tier for the acquisition of commercial items or commercial components:

(1) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(3) \* \* \*

[(4) 41 U.S.C. 351, Service Contract Act of 1965 (see 22.1003-4(c) and (d).)]

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### PART 22-APPLICATION OF LABOR LAWS TO GOVERNMENT ACQUISITIONS

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22.1003-4 Administrative limitations, variations, tolerances, and exemptions.

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[(c)(1) Through July 26, 2001, the Secretary of Labor has exempted subcontracts principally for the following commercial services from all provisions of the Act if the conditions at paragraph (c)(2) of this subsection are met: the maintenance, calibration, repair, and/or installation of information technology.

(2) The exemption at paragraph (c)(1) of this subsection applies if the following conditions are met:

(i) If the subcontract includes installation services, the installation services are not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act as provided in 29 CFR 4.116(c)(2).

(ii) The items of equipment are commercial items.

(iii) The subcontract services are furnished at prices that are, or are based on, established catalog or market prices for the maintenance, calibration, repair, and/or installation of such commercial items.

(iv) The subcontractor uses the same compensation (wage and fringe benefits) plan for all service employees performing work under the contract as the subcontractor uses for these employees and equivalent employees servicing the same type of equipment of commercial customers.

(v) The subcontractor certifies in the subcontract that the conditions in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii) through (iv) of this subsection have been met.

(vi) Prior to subcontract award, the contractor determines that this exemption applies to the subcontract. In making a judgment that the exemption

applies, the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) requires the contractor to consider all factors and make an affirmative determination that the conditions in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii) through (iv) of this subsection have been met, and that the condition at paragraph (c)(2)(v) of this subsection will be met.

(3) If the Department of Labor determines that any of the above requirements for exemption has not been met with respect to a subcontract, the exemption will be deemed inapplicable, and the contractor may be responsible for compliance with the Act, effective as of the date of contract award.

(d)(1) Through July 26, 2001, the Secretary of Labor has exempted subcontracts for the following commercial item services from all provisions of the Act if the conditions at paragraph (d)(2) of this subsection are met:

(i) Automated data processing (ADP) and telecommunications services, excluding ADP data entry services and ADP optical scanning services. This category includes the following:

(A) ADP facility operation and maintenance services provided at the subcontractor's facility.

(B) ADP telecommunications and transmission services.

(C) ADP teleprocessing and timesharing services.

(D) ADP systems analysis services.

(E) Information and data broadcasting or data distribution services.

(F) ADP backup and security services.

(G) ADP data conversion services.

(H) Computer aided design/computer aided manufacturing services.

(I) Digitizing services (including cartographic and geographic information).

(J) Telecommunications network management services.

(K) Automated news services.

(L) Data services or other information services (e.g., buying data, the electronic equivalent of books, periodicals, newspapers, etc.).

(M) Data storage on tapes, compact disks, etc.

(ii) Automobile or other vehicle (e.g., aircraft) maintenance services (other than subcontracts to operate a Government motor pool or similar facility).

(iii) Financial services involving the issuance and servicing of cards (including credit cards, debit cards, purchase cards, smart cards, and similar card services).

(iv) Lodging at hotels/motels and contracts with hotels/motels for conferences, including lodging and meals, that are part of the subcontract for the conference.

(v) Maintenance services for all types of specialized building or facility equipment, such as elevators, escalators, temperature control systems, security systems, smoke and/or heat detection equipment.

(vi) Maintenance, calibration, repair, or installation (where the installation is not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, as provided in 29 CFR 4.116(c)(2)) services for all types of equipment where the services are obtained from the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment.

(vii) Transportation of persons by air, motor vehicle, rail, or marine vessel on regularly scheduled routes or via standard commercial services (not including charter services).

(viii) Real estate services, including real property appraisal services, related to housing Federal agencies or disposing of real property owned by the Government.

(ix) Relocation services, including services of real estate brokers and appraisers to assist Federal employees or military personnel in buying and selling homes.

(2) The exemption for the services in paragraph (d)(1) of this subsection apply if the following conditions are met:

(i) The services under the subcontract are commercial.

(ii) The subcontract will be awarded on a sole-source basis or the subcontractor will be selected for award based on other factors in addition to price. In such cases, price must be equal to or less important than the combination of other nonprice or cost factors in selecting the subcontractor.

(iii) The subcontract services are furnished at prices that are, or are based on, established catalog or market prices.

(iv) All of the service employees who will perform the services under the subcontract spend only a small portion of their time (a monthly average of less than 20 percent of the available hours on an annualized basis, or less than 20 percent of available hours during the contract period if the contract period is less than a month) servicing the Government subcontract.

(v) The subcontractor utilizes the same compensation (wage and fringe benefits) plan for all service employees performing work under the subcontract as the subcontractor uses for these employees and for equivalent employees servicing commercial customers.

(vi) The contractor determines in advance, based on the nature of the subcontract requirements and knowledge of the practices of likely offerors, that all or nearly all offerors will meet the above requirements. If the services are currently being performed under a contract or subcontract, the contractor is required by the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) to consider the practices of the existing

contractor or subcontractor in making a determination regarding the above requirements.

(vii) The subcontractor certifies in the subcontract that the conditions in paragraphs (d)(2)(i), and (d)(2)(iii) through (v) of this subsection apply to the subcontract. The contractor is required by the clause at 52.212-5(c)(1) to review available information concerning the subcontractor and the manner in which the subcontract will be performed. If the contractor has reason to doubt the validity of the certification, SCA stipulations must be included in the subcontract.

(viii) The subcontract are not subject to Section 4(c) of the Service Contract Act.

(3) If the Department of Labor determines that any of the above requirements for exemption has not been met with respect to a subcontract, the exemption will be deemed inapplicable for that subcontract, and the contractor might be responsible for compliance with the Act, effective as of the date of contract award.]

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## PART 52 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

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52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders—Commercial Items.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

\_\_\_\_(1) 52.222-41, Service Contract Act of 1965, As Amended (41 U.S.C. 351, et seq.) [(Subcontracts for certain commercial services may be exempt from coverage if they meet the criteria in FAR 22.1003-4(c) or (d))]

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